

## Somerset County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Glastonbury, Mendip	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> ST 4996 3861	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological recording behind Chaingate Court, Glastonbury Abbey, Somerset.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> SMC	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Glastonbury Abbey	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1-279634	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1400	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 27/02 – 10/03/2017	
<p><b>Description of works:</b></p> <p>An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in March 2017 on land behind Chaingate Court, Glastonbury Abbey, Somerset (ST 4996 3861). The site (Fig. 1) lies in a Scheduled Monument and the work was therefore required by Historic England (HE). The Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by the Consultant Archaeologist to Glastonbury Abbey (CAGA).</p> <p>The trench was excavated along the eastern boundary of Nos. 8-11 Chaingate Court, within the precinct of Glastonbury Abbey. Chaingate Court is occupied by a number of 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century buildings and the former Chaingate Flour Mill. Excavations by P. Ellis at Chaingate Court in 1977 followed by an evaluation by AC Archaeology at Orchard Court in 2005 and observations by the CAGA in 2012, have shown that this area was a low-lying marshy part of the abbey precinct in the Middle Ages. It may well have been occupied by a monastic millpond – a water-driven mill preceding the steam-driven Chaingate flour mill of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The known waterlogged deposits, however, are c. 0.5m below the surface of Orchard Court, which is lower than the ground level within the abbey precinct. Finally, small-scale excavations were also carried out within the abbey grounds by Nancy and Charlie Hollinrake in 2009 at the north end of the boundary wall. They showed that the top 0.7m of the deposits which had accumulated against the wall belonged to the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.</p> <p>The work comprised the hand excavation of a single trench (Fig. 1) to improve drainage around the east side of Nos. 8-11 Chaingate Court – a distance of c. 32.5m.</p> <p><b>Results:</b></p> <p>The trench was 0.6m wide, 1m deep and was dug entirely through 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century material (100). The excavation demonstrated that the wall is entirely 20<sup>th</sup> century in date and that the ground to the east has been heavily disturbed by the construction in the late 1970's of Nos. 8-11 Chaingate Court. This disturbance varies in depth between 0.45-1m and extends into the Abbey grounds by 0.2-3.5m. Underlying this deposit is a relatively homogeneous clay (101) made ground deposit containing large quantities of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century clay roofing tiles.</p> <p><b>Finds:</b></p> <p>by John Allan</p> <p>A very modest collection of archaeological material was recovered from the trench. The pottery, consisting of 8 sherds (total weight 197g) and recovered from (101), consists of two sherds of South Somerset Donyatt-type coarseware (15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century), two late medieval ridgetile fragments with green glaze, three sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century coarsewares and a single sherd of late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century stoneware.</p> <p>In addition, two Doultong architectural fragments were also recovered. These consisted of a small attached roll moulding fragment with vertical tooling from a window and an asymmetrical moulding</p>		

with a fillet, also from a window (13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century).

The earliest find consisted of a large fossilised ammonite fragment with a small area of shell surviving on the exterior face.

**Project archive and OASIS entry**

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Oakford Archaeology's offices under project number 1400, pending deposition with Glastonbury Abbey. A summary of the investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).

**Recorder:**

MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

**Date sent to HER:**

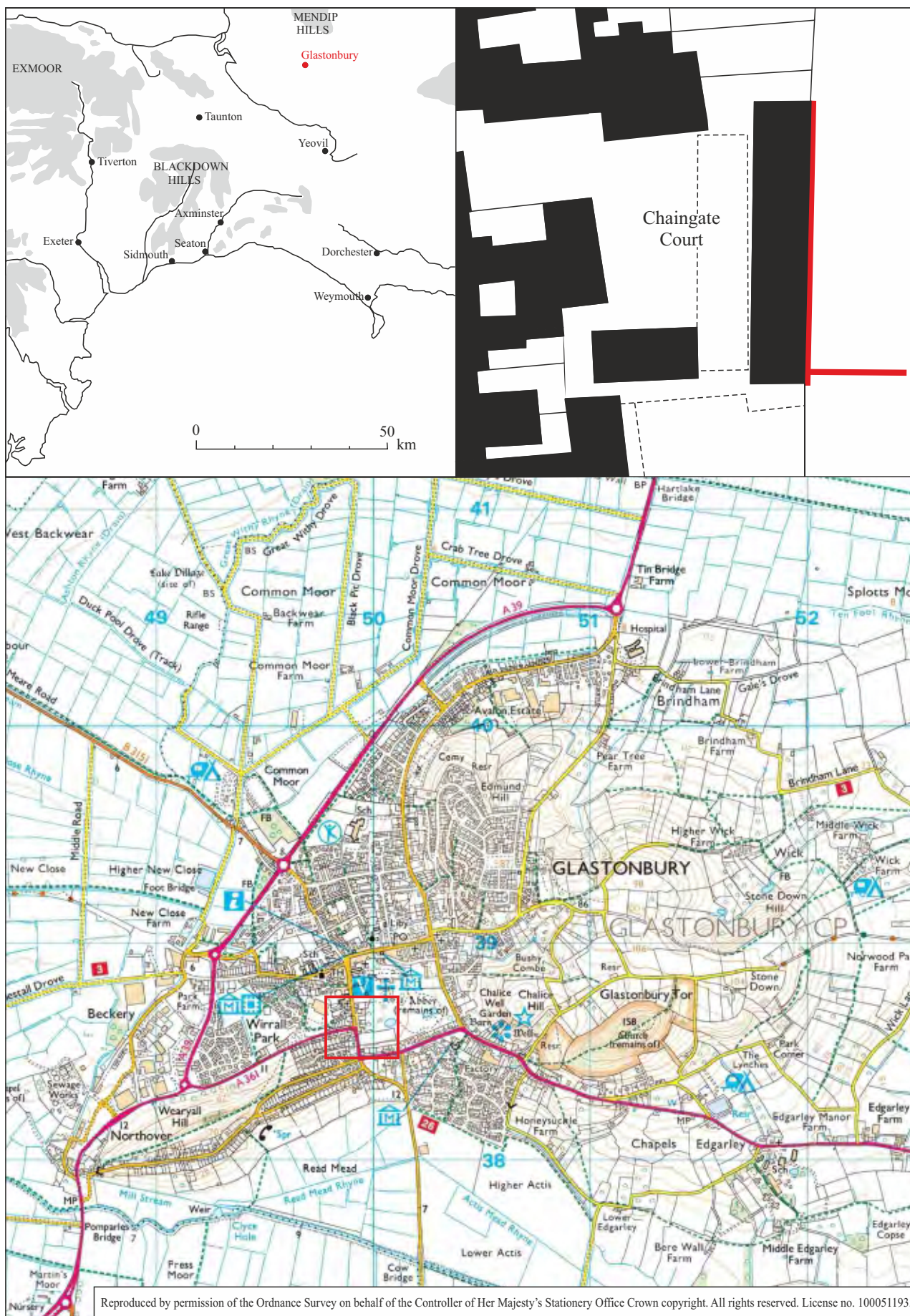


Fig. 1 Location of site.



Pl. 1 General view of trench at rear of Chaingate Court from Abbey precinct. Looking west.



Pl. 2 General view of trench at rear of Chaingate Court. Looking southwest.